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### TRANSLATOR'S DECLARATION

I, Janet Hope, BSc (Hons.), MIL., MITI., translator to Messrs. Taylor and Meyer of 20 Kingsmead Road, London, SW2 3JD, Great Britain, verify that I know well both the German and the English languages, that I have prepared the attached English translation of      pages of a German Patent application in the German language with the title:

"Neue für das tal-Gen codierende Nukleotidsequenzen"

identified by the code number 990228 BT at the upper left of each page and corresponding to client/matter number      of the law firm of

and that the attached English translation of this document is a true and correct translation of the document attached thereto to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I further declare that all statements made of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements are made with the knowledge that wilful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 USC 1001, and that such false statements may jeopardize the validity of this document.

By: 

Dated: 31 March 2000



*Ans.*  
*field of the invention*  
New nucleotide sequences which code for the tal gene

4 The invention provides nucleotide sequences which code for the tal gene and a process for the fermentative preparation of amino acids, in particular L-lysine, L-threonine, L-  
5 isoleucine and L-tryptophan, using coryneform bacteria in which the tal gene is amplified.

*background of the invention*  
prior art

6 Amino acids, in particular L-lysine, are used in human medicine and in the pharmaceuticals industry, but in  
10 particular in animal nutrition.

It is known that amino acids are prepared by fermentation by strains of coryneform bacteria, in particular Corynebacterium glutamicum. Because of their great importance, work is constantly being undertaken to improve  
15 the preparation processes. Improvements to the processes can relate to fermentation measures, such as e. g. stirring and supply of oxygen, or the composition of the nutrient media, such as e. g. the sugar concentration during the fermentation, or the working up to the product form by  
20 e. g. ion exchange chromatography, or the intrinsic output properties of the microorganism itself.

Methods of mutagenesis, selection and mutant selection are used to improve the output properties of these microorganisms. Strains which are resistant to

25 antimetabolites, such as e. g. the lysine analogue S-(2-aminoethyl)-cysteine, or are auxotrophic for metabolites of regulatory importance and produce L-amino acids, such as e. g. L-lysine, are obtained in this manner.

Methods of the recombinant DNA technique have also been  
30 employed for some years for improving the strain of Corynebacterium strains which produce amino acids, by amplifying individual amino acid biosynthesis genes and investigating the effect on the amino acid production.

Review articles in this context are to be found, inter alia, in Kinoshita ("Glutamic Acid Bacteria", in: Biology of Industrial Microorganisms, Demain and Solomon (Eds.), Benjamin Cummings, London, UK, 1985, 115-142), Hilliger 5 (BioTec 2, 40-44 (1991)), Eggeling (Amino Acids 6:261-272 (1994)), Jetten and Sinskey (Critical Reviews in Biotechnology 15, 73-103 (1995)) and Sahm et al. (Annals of the New York Academy of Science 782, 25-39 (1996)).

The importance of the pentose phosphate cycle for the 10 biosynthesis and production of amino acids, in particular L-lysine, by coryneform bacteria is the subject of numerous efforts among experts.

Thus Oishi and Aida (Agricultural and Biological Chemistry 29, 83-89 (1965)) report on the "hexose monophosphate 15 shunt" of *Brevibacterium ammoniagenes*. Sugimoto and Shio (Agricultural and Biological [sic] Chemistry 51, 101-108 (1987)) report on the regulation of glucose 6-phosphate dehydrogenase in *Brevibacterium flavum*.

## Object of the invention

The inventors had the object of providing new measures for improved fermentative preparation of amino acids, in particular L-lysine, L-threonine, L-isoleucine and L-tryptophan.

## 2 ~~Description~~ <sup>Summary</sup> of the invention

Amino acids, in particular L-lysine, are used in human medicine, in the pharmaceuticals industry and in particular in animal nutrition. There is therefore a general interest  
10 in providing new improved processes for the preparation of amino acids, in particular L-lysine.

When L-lysine or lysine are mentioned in the following, not only the base but also the salts, such as e. g. lysine monohydrochloride or lysine sulfate, are also meant by  
15 this.

The invention provides an isolated polynucleotide from coryneform bacteria, comprising a polynucleotide sequence chosen from the group consisting of

- a) polynucleotide which is identical to the extent of at  
20 least 70 % to a polynucleotide which codes for a polypeptide which comprises the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO. 2 or SEQ ID NO. 4,
- b) polynucleotide which codes for a polypeptide which  
comprises an amino-acid sequence which is identical to  
25 the extent of at least 70% to the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO. 2 or SEQ ID NO. 4,
- c) polynucleotide which is complementary to the polynucleotides of a) or b) and
- d) polynucleotide comprising at least 15 successive  
30 nucleotides of the polynucleotide sequence of a), b) or c).

The invention also provides the polynucleotide as claimed in claim 1, this preferably being a DNA which is capable of replication, comprising:

- 5 (i) a nucleotide sequence chosen from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO. 1 and SEQ ID NO. 3 or
- (ii) at least one sequence which corresponds to sequence (i) within the range of the degeneration of the genetic code, or
- 10 (iii) at least one sequence which hybridizes with the sequence complementary to sequence (i) or (ii), and optionally
- (iv) sense mutations of neutral function in (i).

The invention also provides

15 a polynucleotide as claimed in claim 4, comprising one of the nucleotide sequences as shown in SEQ ID NO. 1 and SEQ ID NO. 3,

a polynucleotide as claimed in claim 5, which codes for a polypeptide which comprises the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO. 2 and SEQ ID NO. 4,

20 a vector containing the polynucleotide as claimed in claim 1,

and coryneform bacteria, serving as the host cell, which contain the vector.

The invention also provides polynucleotides which  
25 substantially comprise a polynucleotide sequence, which are [sic] obtainable by screening by means of hybridization of a corresponding gene library, which comprises the complete gene with the polynucleotide sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO. 1 or SEQ ID NO. 3, with a probe which comprises the  
30 sequence of the polynucleotide mentioned, according to

SEQ ID NO. 1 or SEQ ID NO. 3 or a fragment thereof, and isolation of the DNA sequence mentioned.

Polynucleotide sequences according to the invention are suitable as hybridization probes for RNA, cDNA and DNA, in order to isolate, in the full length, cDNA which code for transaldolase and to isolate those cDNA or genes which have a high similarity of sequence with that of the transaldolase gene.

Polynucleotide sequences according to the invention are furthermore suitable as primers for the preparation of DNA of genes which code for transaldolase by the polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

Such oligonucleotides which serve as probes or primers comprise at least 30, preferably at least 20, especially preferably at least 15 successive nucleotides. Oligonucleotides which have a length of at least 40 or 50 nucleotides are also suitable.

"Isolated" means separated out of its natural environment.

"Polynucleotide" in general relates to polyribonucleotides and polydeoxyribonucleotides, it being possible for these to be non-modified RNA or DNA or modified RNA or DNA.

"Polypeptides" is understood as meaning peptides or proteins which comprise two or more amino acids bonded via peptide bonds.

The polypeptides according to the invention include a polypeptide according to SEQ ID NO. 2 or SEQ ID NO. 4, in particular those with the biological activity of transaldolase, and also those which are identical to the extent of at least 70 % to the polypeptide according to SEQ ID NO. 2 or SEQ ID NO. 4, and preferably are identical to the extent of at least 80% and in particular to the extent of at least 90 % to 95 % to the polypeptide according to

SEQ ID NO. 2 or SEQ ID NO. 4, and have the activity mentioned.

The invention also provides a process for the fermentative preparation of amino acids, in particular L-lysine, L-  
5 threonine, L-isoleucine and L-tryptophan, using coryneform bacteria which in particular already produce an amino acid, and in which the nucleotide sequences which code for the tal gene are amplified, in particular over-expressed.

The term "amplification" in this connection describes the  
10 increase in the intracellular activity of one or more enzymes in a microorganism which are coded by the corresponding DNA, for example by increasing the number of copies of the gene or genes, using a potent promoter or using a gene which codes for a corresponding enzyme having  
15 a high activity, and optionally combining these measures.

*Dr. 7*  
*2 - Detailed Description of the Invention*  
The microorganisms which the present invention provides can prepare L-amino acids, in particular L-lysine, from glucose, sucrose, lactose, fructose, maltose, molasses, starch, cellulose or from glycerol and ethanol. They can be  
20 representatives of coryneform bacteria, in particular of the genus Corynebacterium. Of the genus Corynebacterium, there may be mentioned in particular the species Corynebacterium glutamicum, which is known among experts for its ability to produce L-amino acids.

25 Suitable strains of the genus Corynebacterium, in particular of the species Corynebacterium glutamicum, are, for example, the known wild-type strains

30 Corynebacterium glutamicum ATCC13032  
Corynebacterium acetoglutamicum ATCC15806  
Corynebacterium acetoacidophilum ATCC13870  
Corynebacterium thermoaminogenes FERM BP-1539  
Corynebacterium melassecola ATCC17965  
Brevibacterium flavum ATCC14067



*Brevibacterium lactofermentum* ATCC13869 and  
*Brevibacterium divaricatum* ATCC14020

and L-lysine-producing mutants or strains prepared  
therefrom, such as, for example

- 5            *Corynebacterium glutamicum* FERM-P 1709  
             *Brevibacterium flavum* FERM-P 1708  
             *Brevibacterium lactofermentum* FERM-P 1712  
             *Corynebacterium glutamicum* FERM-P 6463  
             *Corynebacterium glutamicum* FERM-P 6464 and  
10           *Corynebacterium glutamicum* ATCC13032  
             *Corynebacterium glutamicum* DM58-1  
             *Corynebacterium glutamicum* DSM12866.

and L-threonine-producing mutants or strains prepared  
therefrom, such as, for example

- 15           *Corynebacterium glutamicum* ATCC21649  
             *Brevibacterium flavum* BB69  
             *Brevibacterium flavum* DSM5399  
             *Brevibacterium lactofermentum* FERM-BP 269  
             *Brevibacterium lactofermentum* TBB-10

20 and L-isoleucine-producing mutants or strains prepared  
therefrom, such as, for example

- Corynebacterium glutamicum* ATCC 14309  
             *Corynebacterium glutamicum* ATCC 14310  
             *Corynebacterium glutamicum* ATCC 14311  
25           *Corynebacterium glutamicum* ATCC 15168  
             *Corynebacterium ammoniagenes* ATCC 6871

and L-tryptophan-producing mutants or strains prepared  
therefrom, such as, for example

- Corynebacterium glutamicum* ATCC21850 and  
30           *Corynebacterium glutamicum* KY9218 (PKW9901) .

The inventors have succeeded in isolating the new tal gene of *C. glutamicum* which codes for transaldolase (EC 2.2.1.2).

To isolate the tal gene or also other genes of *C.*

5 *glutamicum*, a gene library of this microorganism is first set up in *E. coli*. The setting up of gene libraries is described in generally known textbooks and handbooks. The textbook by Winnacker: *Gene und Klone, Eine Einführung in die Gentechnologie* [Genes and Clones, An Introduction to  
10 Genetic Engineering] (Verlag Chemie, Weinheim, Germany, 1990) or the handbook by Sambrook et al.: *Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual* (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, 1989) may be mentioned as an example. A well-known gene library is that of the *E. coli* K-12 strain W3110 set  
15 up in  $\lambda$  vectors by Kohara et al. (Cell 50, 495-508 (1987)). Bathe et al. (Molecular and General Genetics, 252:255-265, 1996) describe a gene library of *C. glutamicum* ATCC13032, which was set up with the aid of the cosmid vector SuperCos I (Wahl et al., 1987, Proceedings of the National Academy  
20 of Sciences USA, 84:2160-2164) in the *E. coli* K-12 strain NM554 (Raleigh et al., 1988, Nucleic Acids Research 16:1563-1575). Börmann et al. (Molecular Microbiology 6(3), 317-326) (1992)) in turn describe a gene library of *C. glutamicum* ATCC13032 using the cosmid pHC79 (Hohn and  
25 Collins, Gene 11, 291-298 (1980)). O'Donohue (The Cloning and Molecular Analysis of Four Common Aromatic Amino Acid Biosynthetic Genes from *Corynebacterium glutamicum*. Ph.D. Thesis, National University of Ireland, Galway, 1997)..... describes the cloning of *C. glutamicum* genes using the  $\lambda$   
30 Zap expression system described by Short et al. (Nucleic Acids Research, 16: 7583). To prepare a gene library of *C. glutamicum* in *E. coli* it is also possible to use plasmids such as pBR322 (Bolivar, Life Sciences, 25, 807-818 (1979)) or pUC9 (Vieira et al., 1982, Gene, 19:259-268). Suitable  
35 hosts are, in particular, those *E. coli* strains which are restriction- and recombination-defective. An example of

- these is the strain DH5 $\alpha$ mc $\alpha$ r, which has been described by Grant et al. (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA, 87 (1990) 4645-4649). The long DNA fragments cloned with the aid of cosmids can then in turn be
- 5 subcloned and subsequently sequenced in the usual vectors which are suitable for sequencing, such as is described e. g. by Sanger et al. (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, 74:5463-5467, 1977).
- 10 The DNA sequences obtained can then be investigated with known algorithms or sequence analysis programs, such as e. g. that of Staden (Nucleic Acids Research 14, 217-232(1986)), the GCG program of Butler (Methods of Biochemical Analysis 39, 74-97 (1998)) the FASTA algorithm
- 15 of Pearson and Lipman (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA 85,2444-2448 (1988)) or the BLAST algorithm of Altschul et al. (Nature Genetics 6, 119-129 (1994)) and compared with the sequence entries which exist in databanks accessible to the public. Databanks for nucleotide
- 20 sequences which are accessible to the public are, for example, that of the European Molecular Biologies Laboratories (EMBL, Heidelberg, Germany) of that of the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI, Bethesda, MD, USA).
- 25 The invention provides the new DNA sequence from C.glutamicum which contains the DNA section which codes for the tal gene, shown as SEQ ID NO 1 and SEQ ID NO 3. The amino acid sequence of the corresponding protein has furthermore been derived from the present DNA sequence
- 30 using the methods described above. The resulting amino acid sequence of the tal gene product is shown in SEQ ID NO 2 and SEQ ID NO 4.

A gene library produced in the manner described above can furthermore be investigated by hybridization with

35 nucleotide probes of known sequence, such as, for example,

the zwf gene (JP-A-09224661). The cloned DNA of the clones which show a positive reaction in the hybridization is sequenced in turn to give on the one hand the known nucleotide sequence of the probe employed and on the other 5 hand the adjacent new DNA sequences.

Coding DNA sequences which result from SEQ ID NO 3 by the degeneracy of the genetic code are also a constituent of the invention. In the same way, DNA sequences which *a* hybridize with SEQ ID NO 3 or parts of ~~or [sic]~~ SEQ ID NO 3 10 are a constituent of the invention. Conservative amino acid exchanges, such as e. g. exchange of glycine for alanine or of aspartic acid for glutamic acid in proteins, are furthermore known among experts as "sense mutations" which do not lead to a fundamental change in the activity of the 15 protein, i.e. are of neutral function. It is furthermore known that changes on the N and/or C terminus of a protein cannot substantially impair or can even stabilize the function thereof. Information in this context can be found by the expert, inter alia, in Ben-Bassat et al. (Journal of 20 Bacteriology 169:751-757 (1987)), in O'Regan et al. (Gene 77:237-251 (1989)), in Sahin-Toth et al. (Protein Sciences 3:240-247 (1994)), in Hochuli et al. (Bio/Technology 6:1321-1325 (1988)) and in known textbooks of genetics and molecular biology. Amino acid sequences which result in a 25 corresponding manner from SEQ ID NO 2 or SEQ ID NO 4 are also a constituent of the invention.

*a* In the same way, DNA sequences which hybridize with ~~or~~ *a* [sic] SEQ ID NO 3 or parts of ~~or [sic]~~ SEQ ID NO 3 are a constituent of the invention. Finally, DNA sequences which 30 are prepared by the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using primers which result from SEQ ID NO 3 are a constituent of the invention. Such oligonucleotides typically have a length of at least 15 nucleotides.

Instructions for identifying DNA sequences by means of 35 hybridization can be found by the expert, inter alia, in

the handbook "The DIG System Users Guide for Filter Hybridization" from Boehringer Mannheim GmbH (Mannheim, Germany, 1993) and in Liebl et al. (International Journal of Systematic Bacteriology (1991) 41: 255-260).

5 Instructions for amplification of DNA sequences with the aid of the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) can be found by the expert, inter alia, in the handbook by Gait:

*a* ~~Oligonucleotide~~ *oligonucleotide* [sic] synthesis: a practical approach (IRL Press, Oxford, UK, 1984) and in Newton and Graham: PCR  
10 (Spektrum Akademischer Verlag, Heidelberg, Germany, 1994).

The inventors have found that coryneform bacteria produce amino acids in an improved manner after over-expression of the tal gene.

To achieve an over-expression, the number of copies of the  
15 corresponding genes can be increased, or the promoter and regulation region or the ribosome binding site upstream of the structural gene can be mutated. Expression cassettes which are incorporated upstream of the structural gene act in the same way. By inducible promoters, it is additionally  
20 possible to increase the expression in the course of fermentative L-amino acid production. The expression is likewise improved by measures to prolong the life of the mRNA. Furthermore, the enzyme activity is also increased by preventing the degradation of the enzyme protein. The genes  
25 or gene constructs can either be present in plasmids with a varying number of copies, or can be integrated and amplified in the chromosome. Alternatively, an over-expression of the genes in question can furthermore be achieved by changing the composition of the media and the  
30 culture procedure.

Instructions in this context can be found by the expert, inter alia, in Martin et al. (Bio/Technology 5, 137-146 (1987)), in Guerrero et al. (Gene 138, 35-41 (1994)), Tsuchiya and Morinaga (Bio/Technology 6, 428-430 (1988)),  
35 in Eikmanns et al. (Gene 102, 93-98 (1991)), in European

Patent Specification EPS 0 472 869, in US Patent 4,601,893, in Schwarzer and Pühler (Bio/Technology 9, 84-87 (1991), in Reinscheid et al. (Applied and Environmental Microbiology 60, 126-132 (1994)), in LaBarre et al. (Journal of Bacteriology 175, 1001-1007 (1993)), in Patent Application WO 96/15246, in Malumbres et al. (Gene 134, 15 - 24 (1993)), in Japanese Laid-Open Specification JP-A-10-229891, in Jensen and Hammer (Biotechnology and Bioengineering 58, 191-195 (1998)), in Makrides (Microbiological Reviews 60:512-538 (1996)) and in known textbooks of genetics and molecular biology.

By way of example, the tal gene according to the invention was over-expressed with the aid of plasmids.

Suitable plasmids are those which are replicated in coryneform bacteria. Numerous known plasmid vectors, such as e. g. pZ1 (Menkel et al., Applied and Environmental Microbiology (1989) 64: 549-554), pEKEx1 (Eikmanns et al., Gene 102:93-98 (1991)) or pHS2-1 (Sonnen et al., Gene 107:69-74 (1991)) are based on the cryptic plasmids pHM1519, pBL1 or pGA1. Other plasmid vectors, such as e. g. those based on pCG4 (US-A 4,489,160), or pNG2 (Serwold-Davis et al., FEMS Microbiology Letters 66, 119-124 (1990)), or pAG1 (US-A 5,158,891), can be used in the same manner.

Plasmid vectors which are furthermore suitable are also those with the aid of which the process of gene amplification by integration into the chromosome can be used, as has been described, for example, by Reinscheid et al. (Applied and Environmental Microbiology 60, 126-132 (1994)) for duplication or amplification of the hom-thrB operon. In this method, the complete gene is cloned in a plasmid vector which can replicate in a host (typically E. coli), but not in C. glutamicum. Possible vectors are, for example, pSUP301 (Simon et al., Bio/Technology 1, 784-791 (1983)), pK18mob or pK19mob (Schäfer et al., Gene 145,

- a 69-73 (1994)), pGEM-T (Promega <sup>Corporation</sup> ~~corporation~~ [sic], Madison, WI, USA), pCR2.1-TOPO (Shuman (1994). ~~[sic]~~ Journal of Biological Chemistry 269:32678-84; US-A 5,487,993), pCR® Blunt (Invitrogen, Groningen, Holland; Bernard et al., 5 Journal of Molecular Biology, 234: 534-541 (1993)), pEM1 (Schrumpf et al, 1991, Journal of Bacteriology 173:4510-4516) or pBGS8 (Spratt et al., 1986, Gene 41: 337-342). The plasmid vector which contains the gene to be amplified is then transferred into the desired strain of *C. glutamicum* 10 by conjugation or transformation. The method of conjugation is described, for example, by Schäfer et al. (Applied and Environmental Microbiology 60, 756-759 (1994)). Methods for transformation are described, for example, by Thierbach et al. (Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology 29, 356-362 15 (1988)), Dunican and Shivnan (Bio/Technology 7, 1067-1070 (1989)) and Tauch et al. (FEMS Microbiological Letters 123, 343-347 (1994)). After homologous recombination by means of a "cross over" event, the resulting strain contains at least two copies of the gene in question.
- 20 An example of a plasmid vector with the aid of which the process of amplification by integration can be carried out is pSUZ1, which is shown in figure 1. Plasmid pSUZ1 consists of the *E. coli* vector pBGS8 described by Spratt et al. (Gene 41: 337-342(1986)), into which the *tal* gene has 25 been incorporated.

In addition, it may be advantageous for the production of amino acids to amplify or over-express one or more enzymes of the particular biosynthesis pathway, of glycolysis, of anaplerosis, of the pentose phosphate pathway or of amino 30 acid export, in addition to the *tal* gene.

Thus, for example, for the preparation of L-amino acids, in particular L-lysine, one or more genes chosen from the group consisting of

- the dapA gene which codes for dihydrodipicolinate synthase (EP-B 0 197 335),
- the lysC gene which codes for a feed back resistant aspartate kinase (Kalinowski et al. (1990), Molecular and  
5 General Genetics 224: 317-324),
- the gap gene which codes for glycerolaldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase (Eikmanns (1992), Journal of Bacteriology 174:6076-6086),
- the pyc gene which codes for pyruvate carboxylase (DE-A-  
10 198 31 609),
- the mqo gene which codes for malate:quinone oxidoreductase (Molenaar et al., European Journal of Biochemistry 254, 395-403 (1998)),
- the tkt gene which codes for transketolase (accession  
15 number AB023377 of the databank of European Molecular Biologies Laboratories (EMBL, Heidelberg, Germany)),
- the gnd gene which codes for 6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase (JP-A-9-224662),
- the zwf gene which codes for glucose 6-phosphate  
20 dehydrogenase (JP-A-9-224661),
- the lysE gene which codes for lysine export (DE-A-195 48 222),
- the zwf gene (DE 199 59 328.0; DSM 13115),
- the eno gene which codes for enolase (DE: 19947791.4),
- 25 • the devB gene,
- the opcA gene (DSM 13264)



can be amplified, preferably over-expressed, at the same time.

Thus, for example, for the preparation of L-threonine, one or more genes chosen from the group consisting of

- 5 • at the same time the hom gene which codes for homoserine dehydrogenase (Peoples et al., Molecular Microbiology 2, 63-72 (1988)) or the hom<sup>dr</sup> allele which codes for a "feed back resistant" homoserine dehydrogenase (Archer et al., Gene 107, 53-59 (1991),
- 10 • the gap gene which codes for glycerolaldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase (Eikmanns (1992), Journal of Bacteriology 174:6076-6086),
- the pyc gene which codes for pyruvate carboxylase (DE-A-198 31 609),
- 15 • the mqo gene which codes for malate:quinone oxidoreductase (Molenaar et al., European Journal of Biochemistry 254, 395-403 (1998)),
- the tkt gene which codes for transketolase (accession number AB023377 of the databank of European Molecular
- 20 Biologies Laboratories (EMBL, Heidelberg, Germany)),
- the gnd gene which codes for 6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase (JP-A-9-224662),
- the zwf gene which codes for glucose 6-phosphate dehydrogenase (JP-A-9-224661),
- 25 • the thrE gene which codes for threonine export (DE 199 41 478.5; DSM 12840),
- the zwf gene (DE 199 59 328.0; DSM 13115),
- the eno gene which codes for enolase (DE: 19947791.4),

- the devB gene,

the opcA gene (DSM 13264)

a can be amplified, preferably over-expressed, at the same time..[sic]

5 It may furthermore be advantageous for the production of amino acids to attenuate

- the pck gene which codes for phosphoenol pyruvate carboxykinase (DE 199 50 409.1 DSM 13047) and/or
- the pgi gene which codes for glucose 6-phosphate isomerase (US 09/396,478, DSM 12969), or
- the poxB gene which codes for pyruvate oxidase (DE 199 51 975.7; DSM 13114), or
- the zwa2 gene (DE: 199 59 327.2; DSM 13113)

15 at the same time, in addition to the amplification of the tal gene.

In addition to over-expression of the tal gene it may furthermore be advantageous for the production of amino acids to eliminate undesirable side reactions (Nakayama: "Breeding of Amino Acid Producing Micro-organisms", in: 20 Overproduction of Microbial Products, Krumphanzl, Sikyta, Vanek (eds.), Academic Press, London, UK, 1982).

The microorganisms prepared according to the invention can be cultured continuously or discontinuously in the batch process (batch culture) or in the fed batch (feed process) 25 or repeated fed batch process (repetitive feed process) for the purpose of production of L-amino acids. A summary of known culture methods <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ [sic] described in the textbook by Chmiel (Bioprozeßtechnik 1. Einführung in die Bioverfahrenstechnik [Bioprocess Technology 1. Introduction 30 to Bioprocess Technology (Gustav Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart,

1991)) or in the textbook by Storhas (Bioreaktoren und periphere Einrichtungen [Bioreactors and Peripheral Equipment] (Vieweg Verlag, Braunschweig/Wiesbaden, 1994)).

The culture medium to be used must meet the requirements of  
5 the particular strains in a suitable manner. Descriptions  
of culture media for various microorganisms are contained  
in the handbook "Manual of Methods for General  
Bacteriology" of the American Society for Bacteriology  
(Washington D.C., USA, 1981). Sugars and carbohydrates,  
10 such as e. g. glucose, sucrose, lactose, fructose, maltose,  
molasses, starch and cellulose, oils and fats, such as  
e. g. soya oil, sunflower oil, groundnut oil and coconut  
fat, fatty acids, such as e. g. palmitic acid, stearic acid  
and linoleic acid, alcohols, such as e. g. glycerol and  
15 ethanol, and organic acids, such as e. g. acetic acid, can  
be used as the source of carbon. These substances can be  
used individually or as a mixture. Organic nitrogen-  
containing compounds, such as peptones, yeast extract, meat  
extract, malt extract, corn steep liquor, soya bean flour  
20 and urea, or inorganic compounds, such as ammonium  
sulphate, ammonium chloride, ammonium phosphate, ammonium  
carbonate and ammonium nitrate, can be used as the source  
of nitrogen. The sources of nitrogen can be used  
individually or as a mixture. Phosphoric acid, potassium  
25 dihydrogen phosphate or dipotassium hydrogen phosphate or  
the corresponding sodium-containing salts can be used as  
the source of phosphorus. The culture medium must  
furthermore comprise salts of metals, such as e. g.  
magnesium sulfate or iron sulfate, which are necessary for  
30 growth. Finally, essential growth substances, such as amino  
acids and vitamins, can be employed in addition to the  
abovementioned substances. Suitable precursors can moreover  
be added to the culture medium. The starting substances  
mentioned can be added to the culture in the form of a  
35 single batch, or can be fed in during the culture in a  
suitable manner.

Basic compounds, such as sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, ammonia or aqueous ammonia, or acid compounds, such as phosphoric acid or sulfuric acid, can be employed in a suitable manner to control the pH of the culture.

- 5 Antifoams, such as e. g. fatty acid polyglycol esters, can be employed to control the development of foam. Suitable substances having a selective action, such as e. g. antibiotics, can be added to the medium to maintain the stability of plasmids. To maintain aerobic conditions,
- 10 oxygen or oxygen-containing gas mixtures, such as e. g. air, are introduced into the culture. The temperature of the culture is usually 20°C to 45°C, and preferably 25°C to 40°C. Culturing is continued until a maximum of L-amino acid has formed. This target is usually reached within 10
- 15 hours to 160 hours.

The analysis of L-amino acids can be carried out by anion exchange chromatography with subsequent ninhydrin derivatization, as described by Spackman et al. (Analytical Chemistry, 30, (1958), 1190).

- 20 The following microorganism has been deposited at the Deutsche Sammlung für Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen (DSMZ = German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures, Braunschweig, Germany) in accordance with the Budapest Treaty:
- 25 • *Escherichia coli* JM109/pSUZ1 as DSM 13263.

SEQ ID NO 1 also contains the new devB gene. The process according to the invention is used for fermentative preparation of amino acids.

The following figures are attached:

Figure 1: Map of the plasmid pSUZ1

The abbreviations and designations used have the following meaning.

- |    |          |   |
|----|----------|---|
| 5  | lacZ:    | segments of <del>lacZ</del> gene fragment   |
|    | kan r:   | kanamycin resistance                        |
|    | tal:     | transaldolase gene                          |
|    | ori:     | origin of replication of plasmid pBGS8      |
|    |          |   |
|    | BclI:    | cleavage site of restriction enzyme BclI    |
| 10 | EcoRI:   | cleavage site of restriction enzyme EcoRI   |
|    | HindIII: | cleavage site of restriction enzyme HindIII |
|    | PstI:    | cleavage site of restriction enzyme PstI    |
|    | SacI:    | cleavage site of restriction enzyme SacI    |

*a Detailed Description of the Invention*  
Examples

The following examples will further illustrate this invention. The molecular biology techniques, e.g. plasmid DNA isolation, restriction enzyme treatment, ligations, 5 standard transformations of *Escherichia coli* etc. used are, (unless stated otherwise), described by Sambrook et al., (Molecular Cloning. A Laboratory Manual (1989) Cold Spring Harbour Laboratories, USA).

10 Example 1

Preparation of a genomic cosmid gene library from *Corynebacterium glutamicum* ATCC 13032

Chromosomal DNA from *Corynebacterium glutamicum* ATCC 13032 was isolated as described by Tauch et al. (1995, Plasmid 15 33:168-179) and partly cleaved with the restriction enzyme Sau3AI (Amersham Pharmacia, Freiburg, Germany, Product Description Sau3AI, Code no. 27-0913-02). The DNA fragments were dephosphorylated with shrimp alkaline phosphatase (Roche Molecular Biochemicals, Mannheim, Germany, Product 20 Description SAP, Code no. 1758250). The DNA of the cosmid vector SuperCos1 (Wahl et al. (1987) Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA 84:2160-2164), obtained from Stratagene (La Jolla, USA, Product Description SuperCos1 Cosmid Vector Kit, Code no. 251301) was cleaved 25 with the restriction enzyme XbaI (Amersham Pharmacia, Freiburg, Germany, Product Description XbaI, Code no. 27-0948-02) and likewise dephosphorylated with shrimp alkaline phosphatase. The cosmid DNA was then cleaved with the restriction enzyme BamHI (Amersham Pharmacia, Freiburg, 30 Germany, Product Description BamHI, Code no. 27-0868-04). The cosmid DNA treated in this manner was mixed with the treated ATCC13032 DNA and the batch was treated with T4 DNA ligase (Amersham Pharmacia, Freiburg, Germany, Product Description T4-DNA-Ligase, Code no.27-0870-04). Th

ligation mixture was then packed in phages with the aid of Gigapack II XL Packing Extracts (Stratagene, La Jolla, USA, Product Description Gigapack II XL Packing Extract, Code no. 200217). For infection of the E. coli strain NM554  
5 (Raleigh et al. 1988, Nucleic Acid Research 16:1563-1575) the cells were taken up in 10 mM MgSO<sub>4</sub> and mixed with an aliquot of the phage suspension. The infection and titering of the cosmid library were carried out as described by Sambrook et al. (1989, Molecular Cloning: A laboratory  
10 Manual, Cold Spring Harbor), the cells being plated out on LB agar (Lennox, 1955, Virology, 1:190) with 100 µg/ml ampicillin. After incubation overnight at 37°C, recombinant individual clones were selected.

## 15 Example 2

### Isolation and sequencing of the tal gene

The cosmid DNA of an individual colony was isolated with the Qiaprep Spin Miniprep Kit (Product No. 27106, Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) in accordance with the manufacturer's  
20 instructions and partly cleaved with the restriction enzyme Sau3AI (Amersham Pharmacia, Freiburg, Germany, Product Description Sau3AI, Product No. 27-0913-02). The DNA fragments were dephosphorylated with shrimp alkaline phosphatase (Roche Molecular Biochemicals, Mannheim,  
25 Germany, Product Description SAP, Product No. 1758250). After separation by gel electrophoresis, the cosmid fragments in the size range of 1500 to 2000 bp were isolated with the QiaExII Gel Extraction Kit (Product No. 20021, Qiagen, Hilden, Germany). The DNA of the sequencing  
30 vector pZero-1, obtained from Invitrogen (Groningen, Holland, Product Description Zero Background Cloning Kit, Product No. K2500-01) was cleaved with the restriction enzyme BamHI (Amersham Pharmacia, Freiburg, Germany, Product Description BamHI, Product No. 27-0868-04). The

ligation of the cosmid fragments in the sequencing vector pZero-1 was carried out as described by Sambrook et al. (1989, Molecular Cloning: A laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor), the DNA mixture being incubated overnight with T4 ligase (Pharmacia Biotech, Freiburg, Germany). This ligation mixture was then electroporated (Tauch et al. 1994, FEMS Microbiol Letters, 123:343-7) into the E. coli strain DH5 $\alpha$ MCR (Grant, 1990, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences U.S.A., 87:4645-4649) and plated out on LB agar (Lennox, 1955, Virology, 1:190) with 50  $\mu$ g/ml zeocin. The plasmid preparation of the recombinant clones was carried out with Biorobot 9600 (Product No. 900200, Qiagen, Hilden, Germany). The sequencing was carried out by the dideoxy chain-stopping method of Sanger et al. (1977, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences U.S.A., 74:5463-5467) with modifications according to Zimmermann et al. (1990, Nucleic Acids Research, 18:1067). The "RR dRhodamin Terminator Cycle Sequencing Kit" from PE Applied Biosystems (Product No. 403044, Weiterstadt, Germany) was used. The separation by gel electrophoresis and analysis of the sequencing reaction were carried out in a "Rotiphoresis NF Acrylamide/Bisacrylamide" Gel (29:1) (Product No. A124.1, Roth, Karlsruhe, Germany) with the "ABI Prism 377" sequencer from PE Applied Biosystems (Weiterstadt, Germany).

The raw sequence data obtained were then processed using the Staden program package (1986, Nucleic Acids Research, 14:217-231) version 97-0. The individual sequences of the pZero1 derivatives were assembled to a continuous contig. The computer-assisted coding region analysis [sic] were prepared with the XNIP program (Staden, 1986, Nucleic Acids Research, 14:217-231). Further analyses were carried out with the "BLAST search program" (Altschul et al., 1997, Nucleic Acids Research, 25:3389-3402), against the non-redundant databank of the "National Center for Biotechnology Information" (NCBI, Bethesda, MD, USA).



The nucleotide sequence obtained is shown in SEQ ID NO 1 and SEQ ID NO 3.

### Example 3

#### 5 Cloning of the tal gene

PCR was used to amplify DNA fragments containing the entire tal gene of *C. glutamicum* 13032 and flanking upstream and downstream regions. PCR reactions were carried out using oligonucleotide primers designed from the sequence as determined in examples 1 and 2. Genomic DNA was isolated from *Corynebacterium glutamicum* ATCC13032 according to Heery and Dunican (Applied and Environmental Microbiology 59: 791-799 (1993)) and used as template. The tal primers used were:

15 fwd. primer: 5' GGT ACA AAG GGT CTT AAG 3'  
rev. primer: 5' GAT TTC ATG TCG CCG TTA 3'

PCR Parameters were as follows:

35 cycles  
95°C for 3 minutes  
20 94°C for 1 minute  
47°C for 1 minute  
72°C for 45 seconds  
2.0 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>  
approximately 150-200 ng DNA template.

25 The PCR product obtained was cloned into the commercially available pGEM-T vector purchased from Promega Corp. (pGEM-T Easy Vector System 1, cat. no. A1360, Promega UK, Southampton, UK) using strain *E. coli* JM109 (Yanisch-Perron et al., Gene, 33: 103-119 (1985)) as a host. The entire tal  
30 gene was subsequently isolated from the pGEM T-vector on an Eco RI fragment and cloned into the lacZ $\alpha$  EcoRI site of the *E. coli* vector pBGS8 (Spratt et al., Gene 41(2-3): 337-342

(1986)). The restriction enzymes used were obtained from Boehringer Mannheim UK Ltd. (Bell Lane, Lewes East Sussex BN7 1LG, UK) and used according to manufacturer's instructions. E. coli JMI09 was then transformed with this 5 ligation mixture and electrotransformants were selected on Luria agar supplemented with isopropyl-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG), 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indolyl-galactopyranoside (XGAL) and kanamycin at concentrations of 1mM, 0.02% and 50 mg/l respectively. Plates were incubated 10 for twelve hours at 37°C. Plasmid DNA was isolated from one transformant, characterised by restriction enzyme analysis using Eco RI. This new construct was designated pSUZ 1.

## SEQUENCE PROTOCOL

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<110> National University of Ireland, Galway  
Degussa-Huls AG

5 <120> New nucleotide sequences which code for the tal gene

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 30 Leu Lys Ala Ala Gly Ala Ser Val Asp Gln Ala Val Tyr Ala Met Ser  
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 35 Ile Asp Asp Val Arg Asn Ala Cys Asp Leu Phe Thr Gly Ile Phe Glu  
 85 90 95  
 Ser Ser Asn Gly Tyr Asp Gly Arg Val Ser Ile Glu Val Asp Pro Arg  
 100 105 110  
 40 Ile Ser Ala Asp Arg Asp Ala Thr Leu Ala Gln Ala Lys Glu Leu Trp  
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 45 Gly Ser Leu Pro Ala Ile Thr Asp Ala Leu Ala Glu Gly Ile Ser Val  
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 55 Ser Lys Ile His Ser Val Ala Ser Phe Phe Val Ser Arg Val Asp Val  
 195 200 205  
 Glu Ile Asp Lys Arg Leu Glu Ala Ile Gly Ser Asp Glu Ala Leu Ala  
 210 215 220  
 60 L u Arg Gly Lys Ala Gly Val Ala Asn Ala Gln Arg Ala Tyr Ala Val  
 225 230 235 240



Tyr Lys Glu Leu Phe Asp Ala Ala Glu Leu Pro Glu Gly Ala Asn Thr  
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 5 Gln Arg Pro Leu Trp Ala Ser Thr Gly Val Lys Asn Pro Ala Tyr Ala  
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 10 Met Pro Glu Gly Thr Ile Asp Ala Val Leu Glu Gln Gly Asn Leu His  
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 15 Gln Leu Glu Ala Leu Gly Val Asp Leu Ala Asp Val Phe Gln Val Leu  
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	20 25 30	
5	att gag gaa aag tct gta gtc ggt gtc acc acc aac cca gct att ttc	144
	Ile Glu Glu Lys Ser Val Val Gly Val Thr Thr Asn Pro Ala Ile Phe	
	35 40 45	
10	gca gca gca atg tcc aag ggc gat tcc tac gac gct cag atc gca gag	192
	Ala Ala Ala Met Ser Lys Gly Asp Ser Tyr Asp Ala Gln Ile Ala Glu	
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	Leu Lys Ala Ala Gly Ala Ser Val Asp Gln Ala Val Tyr Ala Met Ser	
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20	atc gac gac gtt cgc aat gct tgt gat ctg ttc acc ggc atc ttc gag	288
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25	tcc tcc aac ggc tac gac ggc cgc gtg tcc atc gag gtt gac cca cgt	336
	Ser Ser Asn Gly Tyr Asp Gly Arg Val Ser Ile Glu Val Asp Pro Arg	
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30	atc tct gct gac cgc gac gca acc ctg gct cag gcc aag gag ctg tgg	384
	Ile Ser Ala Asp Arg Asp Ala Thr Leu Ala Gln Ala Lys Glu Leu Trp	
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35	gca aag gtt gat cgt cca aac gtc atg atc aag atc cct gca acc cca	432
	Ala Lys Val Asp Arg Pro Asn Val Met Ile Lys Ile Pro Ala Thr Pro	
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40	ggt tct ttg cca gca atc acc gac gct ttg gct gag ggc atc agc gtt	480
	Gly Ser Leu Pro Ala Ile Thr Asp Ala Leu Ala Glu Gly Ile Ser Val	
	145 150 155 160	
45	aac gtc acc ttg atc ttc tcc gtt gct cgc tac cgc gag gtc atc gct	528
	Asn Val Thr Leu Ile Phe Ser Val Ala Arg Tyr Arg Glu Val Ile Ala	
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50	gcg ttc atc gag ggc atc aag cag gct gct gca aac ggc cac gac gtc	576
	Ala Phe Ile Glu Gly Ile Lys Gln Ala Ala Ala Asn Gly His Asp Val	
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55	tcc aag atc cac tct gtg gct tcc ttc ttc gtc tcc cgc gtc gac gtt	624
	Ser Lys Ile His Ser Val Ala Ser Phe Phe Val Ser Arg Val Asp Val	
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60	gag atc gac aag cgc ctc gag gca atc gga tcc gat gag gct ttg gct	672
	Glu Ile Asp Lys Arg Leu Glu Ala Ile Gly Ser Asp Glu Ala Leu Ala	
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65	ctg cgc ggc aag gca ggc gtt gcc aac gct cag cgc gct tac gct gtg	720
	Leu Arg Gly Lys Ala Gly Val Ala Asn Ala Gln Arg Ala Tyr Ala Val	
	225 230 235 240	
70	tac aag gag ctt ttc gac gcc gcc gag ctg cct gaa ggt gcc aac act	768
	Tyr Lys Glu Leu Phe Asp Ala Ala Glu Leu Pro Glu Gly Ala Asn Thr	
	245 250 255	
75	cag cgc cca ctg tgg gca tcc acc ggc gtg aag aac cct gcg tac gct	816
	Gln Arg Pro Leu Trp Ala Ser Thr Gly Val Lys Asn Pro Ala Tyr Ala	
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10 ggt gac acc ctg tcc aac tcc gcg gca gaa gct gac gct gtg ttc tcc 960  
 Gly Asp Thr Leu Ser Asn Ser Ala Ala Glu Ala Asp Ala Val Phe Ser  
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15 cag ctt gag gct ctg ggc gtt gac ttg gca gat gtc ttc cag gtc ctg 1008  
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20 gag acc gag ggt gtg gac aag ttc gtt gct tct tgg agc gaa ctg ctt 1056  
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40 Ile Glu Glu Lys Ser Val Val Gly Val Thr Thr Asn Pro Ala Ile Phe  
 35 40 45

Ala Ala Ala Met Ser Lys Gly Asp Ser Tyr Asp Ala Gln Ile Ala Glu  
 50 55 60

45 Leu Lys Ala Ala Gly Ala Ser Val Asp Gln Ala Val Tyr Ala Met Ser  
 65 70 75 80

50 Ile Asp Asp Val Arg Asn Ala Cys Asp Leu Phe Thr Gly Ile Phe Glu  
 85 90 95

Ser Ser Asn Gly Tyr Asp Gly Arg Val Ser Ile Glu Val Asp Pro Arg  
 100 105 110

55 Ile Ser Ala Asp Arg Asp Ala Thr Leu Ala Gln Ala Lys Glu Leu Trp  
 115 120 125

Ala Lys Val Asp Arg Pro Asn Val Met Ile Lys Ile Pro Ala Thr Pro  
 130 135 140

60 Gly Ser Leu Pro Ala Ile Thr Asp Ala Leu Ala Glu Gly Ile Ser Val  
 145 150 155 160

Asn Val Thr Leu Ile Phe Ser Val Ala Arg Tyr Arg Glu Val Ile Ala

	165	170	175
	Ala Phe Ile Glu Gly Ile Lys Gln	Ala Ala Ala Asn Gly His Asp Val	
	180	185	190
5	Ser Lys Ile His Ser Val Ala Ser Phe Phe Val Ser Arg Val Asp Val		
	195	200	205
10	Glu Ile Asp Lys Arg Leu Glu Ala Ile Gly Ser Asp Glu Ala Leu Ala		
	210	215	220
	Leu Arg Gly Lys Ala Gly Val Ala Asn Ala Gln Arg Ala Tyr Ala Val		
	225	230	235
15	Tyr Lys Glu Leu Phe Asp Ala Ala Glu Leu Pro Glu Gly Ala Asn Thr		
	245	250	255
	Gln Arg Pro Leu Trp Ala Ser Thr Gly Val Lys Asn Pro Ala Tyr Ala		
	260	265	270
20	Ala Thr Leu Tyr Val Ser Glu Leu Ala Gly Pro Asn Thr Val Asn Thr		
	275	280	285
25	Met Pro Glu Gly Thr Ile Asp Ala Val Leu Glu Gln Gly Asn Leu His		
	290	295	300
	Gly Asp Thr Leu Ser Asn Ser Ala Ala Glu Ala Asp Ala Val Phe Ser		
	305	310	315
30	Gln Leu Glu Ala Leu Gly Val Asp Leu Ala Asp Val Phe Gln Val Leu		
	325	330	335
	Glu Thr Glu Gly Val Asp Lys Phe Val Ala Ser Trp Ser Glu Leu Leu		
	340	345	350
35	Glu Ser Met Glu Ala Arg Leu Lys		
	355	360	
40			

*What's Claimed Is:*  
~~Patent claims~~

- a*
1. An isolated polynucleotide from coryneform bacteria,  
*comprising* ~~comprising~~ a polynucleotide sequence chosen from the group consisting of
    - 5 a) polynucleotide which is identical to the extent of at least 70 % to a polynucleotide which codes for a polypeptide which comprises the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO. 2 or SEQ ID NO. 4,
    - 10 b) polynucleotide which codes for a polypeptide which comprises an amino acid sequence which is identical to the extent of at least 70 % to the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO. 2 or SEQ ID NO. 4
    - c) polynucleotide which is complementary to the polynucleotides of a) or b) and
    - 15 d) polynucleotide comprising at least 15 successive nucleotides of the polynucleotide sequences of a), b) or c).
  2. A polynucleotide as claimed in claim 1  
wherein the polynucleotide is a preferably recombinant  
20 DNA which is capable of replication in coryneform bacteria and additionally contains at least one of the nucleotide sequences which codes for the genes tkt, zwf, opcA and devB.
  3. A polynucleotide as claimed in claim 1,  
25 wherein the polynucleotide is an RNA.
  4. A polynucleotide as claimed in claim 2,  
*a* comprising one of the nucleotide ~~sequence~~ <sup>sequences</sup> ~~[sic]~~ as shown in SEQ ID NO. 3.
  5. A polynucleotide as claimed in claim 2,  
30 which codes for a polypeptide which comprises the

amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO. 2 and SEQ ID NO. 4.

6. A DNA as claimed in claim 2 which is capable of replication, comprising

- 5 (i) a nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO. 3, or
- (ii) at least one sequence which corresponds to sequences (i) within the range of the degeneration of the genetic code, or
- 10 (iii) at least one sequence which hybridizes with the sequences complementary to sequences (i) or (ii), and optionally
- (iv) sense mutations of neutral function in (i).

7. A coryneform bacterium serving as the host cell, which  
15 contains a vector which carries a polynucleotide as claimed in claim 1.

8. A process for the preparation of L-amino acids, which comprises carrying out the following steps:

- 20 a) fermentation of the bacteria which produce the desired L-amino acid, in which at least the tal gene and optionally one or more of the genes tkt gene, zwf gene, devB gene or opcA gene are amplified at the same time,
- 25 b) concentration of the desired product in the medium or in the cells of the bacteria and
- c) isolation of the desired L-amino acid.

9. A process as claimed in claim 8, wherein

- 30 bacteria in which further genes of the biosynthesis pathway of the desired L-amino acid are additionally amplified are employed.

10. A process as claimed in claim 8,  
wherein  
bacteria in which the metabolic pathways which reduce  
the formation of the desired L-amino acid are at least  
partly eliminated are employed.
- 5
- a 11. A process as claimed in one ~~or more~~ of claims 8 to ~~12~~  
a ~~[sic]~~,  
wherein  
coryneform bacteria which produce one of the amino  
acids from the group consisting of L-lysine, L-  
threonine, L-isoleucine or L-tryptophan are used.
- 10
12. A process for the fermentative preparation of L-amino  
acids, in particular lysine, as claimed in claim 8,  
wherein  
in the coryneform microorganisms which in particular  
already produce L-amino acids, one or more genes  
chosen from the group consisting of
- 15
- 12.1 the dapA gene which codes for  
dihydrodipicolinate synthase,
- 20
- 12.2 the lysC gene which codes for a feed back  
resistant aspartate kinase,
- 12.3 the gap gene which codes for glycerolaldehyde 3-  
phosphate dehydrogenase,
- 12.4 the pyc gene which codes for pyruvate  
carboxylase,
- 25
- 12.5 the mqo gene which codes for malate-quinone  
oxidoreductase,
- 12.6 the tkt gene which codes for transketolase,
- 12.7 the gnd gene which codes for 6-phosphogluconate  
dehydrogenase,
- 30

12.8 the zwf gene which codes for glucose 6-phosphate dehydrogenase,

12.9 the lysE gene which codes for lysine export,

12.10 the zwal gene,

5 12.11 the eno gene which codes for enolase,

12.12 the opcA gene

is or are amplified or over-expressed at the same time.

13. A process for the fermentative preparation of L-threonine as claimed in claim 8,  
10 wherein  
in coryneform microorganisms which in particular already produce L-threonine, one or more genes chosen from the group consisting of

15 13.1 at the same time the hom gene which codes for homoserine dehydrogenase or the hom<sup>dr</sup> allele which codes for a "feed back resistant" homoserine dehydrogenase,

20 13.2 the gap gene which codes for glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase,

13.3 the pyc gene which codes for pyruvate carboxylase,

13.4 the mqo gene which codes for malate:quinone oxidoreductase,

25 13.5 the tkt gene which codes for transketolase,

13.6 the gnd gene which codes for 6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase,



- 13.7 the zwf gene which codes for glucose 6-phosphate dehydrogenase,
- 13.8 the thrE gene which codes for threonine export,
- 13.9 the zwal gene,
- 5 13.10 the eno gene which codes for enolase,
- 13.11 the opcA gene
- is or are amplified, in particular over-expressed, at the same time.
14. A process as claimed in claim 10,  
10 wherein  
for the preparation of L-amino acids, in particular L-lysine, L-threonine, L-isoleucine or L-tryptophan, bacteria in which one or more genes chosen from the group consisting of, [sic]
- 15 14.1 the pck gene which codes for phosphoenol pyruvate carboxykinase
- 14.2 the pgi gene which codes for glucose 6-phosphate6 [sic] isomerase
- 14.3 the poxB gene which codes for pyruvate oxidase or
- 20 14.4 the zwa2 gene
- is or are attenuated at the same time, are fermented.
15. A use of polynucleotide sequences as claimed in claim 1 as hybridization probes for isolation of the cDNA which codes for the tal gene product.
- 25 16. A use of polynucleotide sequences as claimed in claim 1 as hybridization probes for isolation of the cDNA or genes which have a high similarity with the sequence of the tal gene.

add  
cy

**New nucleotide sequences which code for the tal gene****Abstract**

The invention relates to an isolated polynucleotide from coryneform bacteria, comprising a polynucleotide sequence  
5 chosen from the group consisting of

- a) polynucleotide which is identical to the extent of at least 70 % to a polynucleotide which codes for a polypeptide which comprises the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO. 2 or SEQ ID NO. 4,
- 10 b) polynucleotide which codes for a polypeptide which comprises an amino acid sequence which is identical to the extent of at least 70 % to the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO. 2 or SEQ ID NO. 4
- sub 3  
c) polynucleotide which is complementary to the  
15 polynucleotides of a) or b) and
- d) polynucleotide comprising at least 15 successive nucleotides of the polynucleotide sequences of a), b) or c)

and a process for the preparation of L-amino acids, which  
20 comprises carrying out the following steps:

- a) fermentation of the desired L-amino acid-producing bacteria in which at least the tal gene is amplified,
- b) concentration of the desired product in the medium or in the cells of the bacteria and
- 25 c) isolation of the L-amino acid.